

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A network system connecting a plurality of different types of user terminal devices and a network server via a known communication system, wherein each user terminal device comprises:

means for retrieving information from a removable memory loaded into the terminal device; said removable memory storing user specific information and a group identification for identifying plural users of the user terminal device to form a specific group, and

means for transmitting said user specific information and information identifying said terminal device as specific information when said removable memory is loaded, wherein said information identifying said terminal device includes terminal type attributes and media type attributes corresponding to the type of terminal device; and said network server comprises:

means for receiving said specific information transmitted by said terminal device used by said user,

means for registering said user specific information and said information identifying said terminal device included in said specific information as registered information,

means for updating said registered information identifying said terminal device corresponding to said user specific information,

means for identifying the terminal device, based on said updated information by said means for updating, currently being used by said user and for authenticating said user by referring to said registered information,

means for converting message information addressed to said authenticated user from a first data format incompatible with the type of said terminal device to a second data format compatible with the type of said terminal device based on said terminal type attributes and said media type attributes of said terminal device currently being used by said user, and

means for transmitting the converted message information to said terminal device currently being used by said user;

wherein, if said user requests message information from the network server and switches from a first terminal device compatible with the first data format to a second terminal device compatible with the second data format before the requested message information is transmitted, the message information is converted from the first data format to the second data format and transmitted to the second terminal device.

Claim 2. (canceled)

Claim 3. (previously presented) The network system according to claim 1, wherein said means for registering erases said registered information when said removable memory is extracted from said terminal device.

Claims 4-9. (canceled)

Claim 10. (currently amended) A network system connecting a plurality of different types of user terminal devices owned by a user and a network server via a communication system, wherein each terminal device comprises:

means for retrieving information from a removable memory loaded into the terminal device; said removable memory storing user specific information and a group identification for identifying plural users of the user terminal device to form a specific group, and

means for transmitting said user specific information and device information identifying said terminal device from which the user accesses the communication system when said removable memory is loaded, wherein said device information includes terminal type attributes and media

type attributes corresponding to the type of terminal device;

and said network server comprises:

means for receiving said user specific information and said device information transmitted by said terminal device in which said removable memory is loaded,

means for registering said user specific information and said device information in a table,

means for deleting said device information in the table if the means for receiving receives a delete signal when the removable memory is extracted and for updating the table with device information for the terminal device currently being used by said user,

means for identifying said terminal device being accessed by said user and for authenticating said user by referring to said registered information,

means for converting message information addressed to said authenticated user from a first data format incompatible with the type of said terminal device to a second data format compatible with the type of said terminal device based on said terminal type attributes and said media type attributes of said terminal device being used by the user, and

means for transmitting said converted message information to said terminal device currently being used by the user by referring to said updated table;
wherein, if said user requests message information from the network server and switches from a first terminal device compatible with the first data format to a second terminal device compatible with the second data format before the requested message information is transmitted, the message information is converted from the first data format to the second data format and transmitted to the second terminal device.